

Message Text

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45

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 MC-02 DRC-01 EB-11 /120 W

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P R 141555Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2766

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CSAF WASHDC

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

CHJUSMAGG ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 1581

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, GR, US

SUBJECT: GOG PRIORITIES AND CONTINUED EFFORTS TO ACQUIRE MILITARY MATERIAL

REF: A. STATE 37732

B. CHJUSMAGG 281350Z FEB 74

C. ATHENS 1390

1. DURING MARCH 13 CALL BY AMBASSADOR ON FONMIN TETENES, LATTER PRESENTED SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT TRANSLATION, BUT SUBSTANTIVELY UNCHANGED, OF MEMORANDUM GIVEN TO DEPARTMENT FEBRUARY 22 (REF A). IT WAS EVIDENTLY INTENDED TO INFORM AMBASSADOR BEFORE HIS TRIP TO WASHINGTON OF CRITICAL NEEDS OF GREEK ARMED FORCES.

2. REFTELS ALL REFER TO APPARENT GOG DECISION TO ACQUIRE A-7D AIRCRAFT. DESPITE THESE REPEATED INDICATIONS, THERE IS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT A-4N AND F-5E ARE STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION, ALTHOUGH A-7D EVIDENTLY STILL LEADING CONTENDER. HOWEVER, PRICE AND AVAILABILITY DATA TO BE PROVIDED TO PAPANICOLAOU PRESUMABLY WILL BE EXAMINED BEFORE FINAL DECISION MADE AND
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CONTRACT SIGNED.

3. LT. GEN. PAPANICOLAOU HAS RECEIVED INVITATION TO VISIT MCDONNELL DOUGLAS IN ST. LOUIS IN CONNECTION WITH F-4 PROGRAM. HIS TENTATIVE PLAN IS TO BE IN ST. LOUIS AT END OF MARCH AND IN WASHINGTON DURING FIRST WEEK OF APRIL. CHJUSMAGG IS COMMUNICATING DETAILS OF THIS UNOFFICIAL TRAVEL, INCLUDING FACT THAT PAPANICOLAOU WISHES TO CONFER WITH U.S. AIR FORCE AND DEFENSE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS REGARDING AIRCRAFT REQUIREMENTS OF HAF.

4. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT NO PROTOCOL OR CEREMONIAL CHARACTERISTICS SHOULD BE DEVELOPED FOR PAPANICOLAOU'S WASHINGTON VISIT, WHICH SHOULD INSTEAD BE RESTRICTED TO INFORMAL CONTACTS. DESPITE REPEATED STATEMENTS OF USG POSITION THAT GRANT AID PROVISION OF AIRCRAFT NOT POSSIBLE, PAPANICOLAOU MAY STILL HARBOR ILLUSION THAT HIS PERSONAL APPROACH TO DOD AND USAF OFFICIALS WILL PRODUCE DRAMATIC REVERSAL OF THIS POSITION. BELIEVE ALL CONCERNED SHOULD BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE IN FACILITATING GOG ACQUISITION OF AIRCRAFT, INCLUDING IF POSSIBLE PRIORITY DELIVERY FROM AIRCRAFT ALREADY PROGRAMMED FOR CONSTRUCTION AND MOST FAVORABLE POSSIBLE CREDIT ARRANGEMENTS. BUT PAPANICOLAOU SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT LEAVE WASHINGTON WITH UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS OF WHAT MIGHT BE DONE, ONLY TO BE DOUBLY DISILLUSIONED AT SOME LATER DATE.
BRANDIN

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